

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.: PCT/US2003/018739  
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PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED: 11 June 2002  
TITLE OF INVENTION: HERNIA MESH TACKS  
APPLICANT: TYCO HEALTHCARE GROUP, LP  
DOCKET: 2832 (203-3308)

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir/Madam:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this paper.

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**CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.10**

I hereby certify that this correspondence and the documents referred to as enclosed are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on date below in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Mail Label Number EJ953409686US addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Patent Application, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: 12/7/04

  
Susan S. Rickard